Subject: Re: Public Records Request — ALPR / Flock Safety records (Town of Belville)
Date: Monday, August 31, 2026 at 7:39:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Mark Williams
To: Town Manager
CC: Sharon Niemann
Attachments: Outlook-image.png, Outlook-A picture .jpg, Outlook-cidimage00.jpg, Outlook-image.png, Outlook-A picture .jpg, Outlook-cidimage00.jpg, image001.jpg, image002.jpg

Ms. Williams,

Thank you for the fuller answer. It clarifies the record: the Town does operate two license plate reader cameras. That corrects the Town's August 28 statement that Belville "does not have or manage any ALPR / Flock Safety cameras at any of its facilities," and I want the file to reflect the accurate position, so a few narrow points remain.

First, the equipment. Please identify the two cameras — manufacturer, model, and the vendor that installed and services them — and the date they went live. I am glad to speak with your IT consultant to confirm the technical details, and I appreciate the offer.

Second, the policy. North Carolina law requires any State or local law enforcement agency that uses an ALPR system to adopt a written policy before the system becomes operational, covering data retention, database use, data-sharing, operator training, oversight, security, and auditing (N.C.G.S. § 20-183.31). Please provide the Town's written ALPR policy, or confirm in writing that none exists.

Third, a point the Town's own description raises. You state that the Town pulls this footage for law enforcement on request. That places the system within the ambit of Article 3D, which reaches plate data "operated by or on behalf of a law enforcement agency." If that is the correct characterization, the pre-deployment policy above was required and the 90-day retention limit in § 20-183.32 applies. If instead the Town's position is that these cameras are not operated for law enforcement, then the confidentiality provision in § 20-183.32 does not attach, and the captured footage is an ordinary public record open to inspection under § 132-1. Please tell me which characterization the Town adopts. Under the first, I renew my request for the policy and the retention schedule; under the second, I request to inspect the plate-capture footage the Town currently retains.

Fourth, the removed camera. You noted a Flock camera at the Belville Riverwalk park gate that the Town does not own or manage, now removed with the pole still standing. If you can identify who operated it, that would help. I will separately ask the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office and NCDOT.

My preservation demand from the original request remains in effect as to all responsive records, including any stored footage and access logs, pending the Town's complete response.

Thank you again for the prompt attention.

Respectfully,
Mark Spencer Williams
Managing Attorney | Rice Law, PLLC
N.C. State Bar No. 34292
105 N. 6th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 | 910-762-3854
Submitted on behalf of DeFlockILM.org
Please direct responses to Mark@DeFlockILM.org

Check Out our Most Recent Video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsSO1S3CvK8

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From: Town Manager <townmanager@townofbelville.com>
Date: Monday, August 31, 2026 at 3:48 PM
To: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Subject: Re: Public Records Request — ALPR / Flock Safety records (Town of Belville)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark,

Yes, the town does have two license plate reader cameras. They are not continuously monitored by anyone and do not save any information to a database. We are able to pull the footage if needed by law enforcement, if requested within a short period of time after recording. The town does not have a police department. Our cameras are on a standalone system and cannot be viewed by any outside agency. No person is monitoring them in real time and there is no AI being utilized for data searches. If you would like to speak to our IT consultant, he can explain fully how the system works.

Also, there was recently a flock camera outside the gate of the Belville Riverwalk park which was not owned or managed by the town. The camera has recently been removed, although the pole is still there. I am not certain who it belonged to.

Athina D. Williams
Town Manager,Town of Belville
Office: 910.371.2456
Mobile: 910.382.8253
Email:townmanager@townofbelville.com
497 Olde Waterford Way,Suite 200
Belville, NC 28451

townofbelville.com

From: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:51 PM
To: Town Manager <townmanager@townofbelville.com>; Sharon Niemann <sniemann@townofbelville.com>
Subject: Re: Public Records Request — ALPR / Flock Safety records (Town of Belville)

Ms. Williams,
Thank you for the quick and clear response — I appreciate it.
One small point to close the loop, and it may not be the Town's at all. The crowdsourced DeFlock map (deflock.org) currently shows two license-plate-reader cameras within Belville, at approximately:

- **34.23072, -77.95999**
- **34.23474, -77.96617**

Given your answer that the Town operates none, I take it these are **not Belville's or the Belville Police Department's**. If you happen to know, could you confirm that — and, if you're aware, whether they belong to **NCDOT / the SBI** (the state's right-of-way highway readers) or to the **Brunswick County Sheriff's Office**? I'm simply trying to attribute each camera to the correct operator so the public record is accurate, and I don't want to leave the impression they're the Town's if they aren't.
No rush, and thank you again for the prompt reply.
Respectfully,
~Mark

Check Out our Most Recent Video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsSO1S3CvK8

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From: Town Manager <townmanager@townofbelville.com>
Date: Friday, August 28, 2026 at 9:20 AM
To: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>; Sharon Niemann <sniemann@townofbelville.com>
Subject: Re: Public Records Request — ALPR / Flock Safety records (Town of Belville)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

The Town of Belville does not have or manage any ALPR / Flock Safety cameras at any of its facilities. Thank you for your inquiry.

Athina D. Williams
Town Manager,Town of Belville
Office: 910.371.2456
Mobile: 910.382.8253
Email:townmanager@townofbelville.com
497 Olde Waterford Way,Suite 200
Belville, NC 28451

townofbelville.com

From: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:32 PM
To: Sharon Niemann <sniemann@townofbelville.com>
Subject: Public Records Request — ALPR / Flock Safety records (Town of Belville)

To the Public-Records Custodian, Town of Belville (attn: Town Clerk Sharon Niemann):
Under the North Carolina Public Records Law, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq., I request copies of the following records concerning the Town's (and the Belville Police Department's, if any) automated license plate reader (ALPR) program, including any Flock Safety system. Electronic copies (native PDF, CSV, or Excel) are acceptable and preferred.
PRESERVATION DEMAND (effective immediately). Because ALPR and Flock records — including plate reads, audit and event logs, and hot-list data — are subject to short retention windows and automatic deletion, please treat this as a formal preservation request as of the date of this email. Pending your full response, preserve, and suspend the automatic purge or overwriting of, all records responsive to this request — including all Flock data, Organization/Network/Event audit logs, and related communications — notwithstanding any routine retention schedule or auto-deletion setting. Under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-3, public records may not be destroyed without the consent of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-183.32 permits an agency to preserve ALPR data beyond its default retention period. This preservation obligation applies whether or not the records are ultimately produced, and remains in effect until this request is fully resolved — including through any appeal or litigation. A failure to respond does not lift it.

1. Every vendor contract, order form, quote, and renewal for ALPR cameras or services — including any agreement with Flock Safety, Inc. — and all amendments.
2. The ALPR policy, SOP, or general order governing camera use, access, and auditing.
3. All data-sharing agreements and MOUs, including with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, other law-enforcement agencies, the State Bureau of Investigation, ICE, CBP, and any nationwide lookup or "hot list" network.
4. The Flock Organization Audit, Network Audit, and Event Log for the most recent three complete months, in native CSV as exported by Flock. Please do not re-save the file through Microsoft Excel, which silently drops any rows past ~1,048,576; if any monthly file would exceed that limit, please produce it in smaller date ranges (for example, one week at a time) so nothing is truncated.
5. The current number of ALPR cameras operated and the general areas they cover.
6. The data-retention schedule and any preservation or deletion settings.
7. All invoices, purchase orders, and payment records for ALPR cameras or services.
8. Any records of misuse, audit exceptions, or discipline relating to ALPR searches.
9. Communications with the vendor regarding data sharing, network configuration, or federal access.

If the Town does not operate any ALPR or Flock system, please confirm that in writing.
I ask to inspect these records at no cost and to receive electronic copies. If any portion is withheld, please cite the specific statutory basis and produce the remainder. Please acknowledge receipt.
Respectfully,
Mark Spencer Williams
o/b/o DeFlockILM.org
mark@deflockilm.org

Check Out our Most Recent Video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsSO1S3CvK8

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